

71/101. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein the stent comprises metal.

72/102. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein the vessel is traumatized prior to stent placement.

78/103. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein the stent further comprises a coating comprising a sustained release dosage form.

79/104. (New) The method of claim 102 wherein the vessel is subjected to angioplasty.

Remarks

Claims 101-104 are added. Claims 26-104 are pending.

The specification is amended to reflect Applicant's assertion of the benefit of the filing date of an earlier filed application.

Amended claim 60 is supported by page 6, lines 6-30, page 8, line 28-page 9, line 6, page 47, line 29-page 49, line 18 and page 56, lines 3-16 of the specification.

New claims 101-104 are supported at page 6, lines 6-30 and page 47, line 29-page 49, line 18 of the specification.

In the Restriction Requirement mailed March 28, 2001, the Examiner grouped claims 60-69 together. However, claim 69 is dependent on claim 26 which is in Group I. Accordingly, claims 60-68 are in Group V.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects without traverse the invention of claims 60-68 (Group V) which, as amended, are directed to a method for preparing an intravascular stent effective to maintain vessel luminal area in a mammal, comprising selecting a cytostatic therapeutic agent which does not exhibit substantial cytotoxicity and which does not inhibit extracellular matrix synthesis; and introducing into the matrix of the intravascular stent an amount of the cytostatic therapeutic agent effective to reduce or inhibit stenosis or restenosis of said vessel, wherein the therapeutic agent is not heparin or a radioisotope.

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The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's Representatives at the below-listed telephone number if there are any questions regarding this Response or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 28 day of June, 2001.


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